

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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November 20, 2015

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**New grant helps at-risk teenagers:** The Bridge Family Center was awarded a three-year grant to cover the costs for their new Pathfinders program (a.k.a. Basic Center Program) that helps homeless and runaway youths get off the streets and back on the right path. The program provides 24/7 access to a safe place to stay, meals, life skills training, and counseling for teens ages 13-18.

**Morley students bring food in their red wagons:** On November 18, over 100 Morley schoolchildren walked 1.22 miles to Town Hall with their red wagons laden with non-perishable food for the town's food pantry. Each year the Food Pantry distributes thousands of bags of food to West Hartford residents in need.

**Food donations needed:** The Food Pantry is currently in need of boxed cereals, canned spaghetti, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned beans of all types, small canned meats (spam, ham, chicken), tuna, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, tuna and hamburger helper, rice (brown or white), juice, coffee and tea.

Food donations can be dropped off in the Town Hall lobby at the Customer Service Desk, Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Financial contributions may be sent to: Town That Cares Food Pantry, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107.

**The Holiday Stroll:** Horse drawn carriage rides, carolers and street entertainment . . . all evoke images of a traditional New England winter season and on Thursday, December 3 West Hartford Center and Blue Back Square will bring the magic of the holidays to the Annual Holiday Stroll. This free event will be held from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

The Holiday Stroll features Santa and Mrs. Claus, marshmallow roasting, food sampling from area restaurants, and ballerinas from *The Nutcracker*, music and dancing, choirs from local groups and public schools, a Festival of

Trees at First Church of Christ, and much more. For more information, contact Barbara Lerner, at the Chamber of Commerce, 521-2300.

**New elected officials:** West Hartford welcomes new Board of Education members Carol Blanks and Dave Pauluk. They, along with current members Cheryl Greenberg, Jay Sarzen, Tammy Exum, Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, and Mark Zydanowicz, were sworn in on Tuesday, November 17. Retiring board members are Terry Schmitt and Bruce Putterman.

The Town Council also sworn in new members on November 17. Beth Kerrigan, Ben Wenograd and Chris Williams will join Scott Slifka, Shari Cantor, Denise Hall, Leon Davidoff, Chris Barnes and Judy Casperson on the 2015-2017 Town Council. Retiring council members are Clare Kindall, Harry Captain and Burke Doar.

**Holiday causes a trash pick-up delay:** Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, trash, "A" week recyclables pick-up, and metal collections will be delayed one day after the holiday. The normal Thursday collection will occur on Friday, November 27 and Friday's collection will be done on Saturday, November 28. No other collection days are effected during this holiday week or the following week. For more information, please call Paine's, Inc. at (860) 844-3000 or visit [www.painesinc.com](http://www.painesinc.com).

**Outcasts United selected for first One Book, One Town:** *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John, a real-life story about of an inspiring group of refugees and a woman who, with tough love and fiery determination, changes an entire community for the better, was revealed as the selected title of the first One Book, One Town on Nov. 7. The initiative will stimulate conversations around the book's core themes of acceptance, inclusion and diversity from now through April 2016.

Ronald F. Van Winkle  
Town Manager